

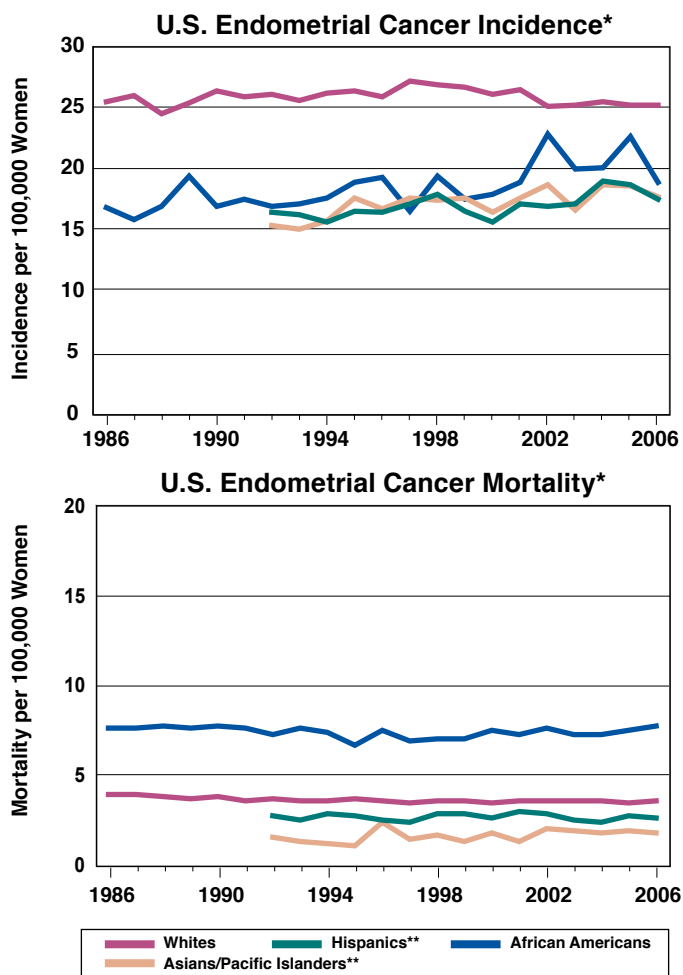
Incidence and Mortality Rate Trends

Endometrial cancer is both the most common type of uterine cancer and the most common cancer of the female reproductive system, accounting for approximately 6 percent of all cancers in women in the United States. The mortality rate has declined slightly over the past 20 years among white women, but it has increased slightly among African Americans and Asians and Pacific Islanders and remained at the same level among Hispanics. Although the incidence rate of endometrial cancer is lower in African American women than in whites, the mortality rate is nearly twice as high.

It is estimated that approximately \$1.8 billion¹ is spent in the United States each year on treatment of endometrial cancer.

Source for incidence and mortality data: Surveillance, Epidemiology, and End Results (SEER) Program and the National Center for Health Statistics. Additional statistics and charts are available at <http://seer.cancer.gov/>.

¹Cancer Trends Progress Report (<http://progressreport.cancer.gov/>), in 2004 dollars, based on methods described in *Medical Care* 2002 Aug;40(8 Suppl):IV-104-17.



* Significant data for American Indians/Alaskan Natives not available.
** Incidence and mortality data not available before 1992.

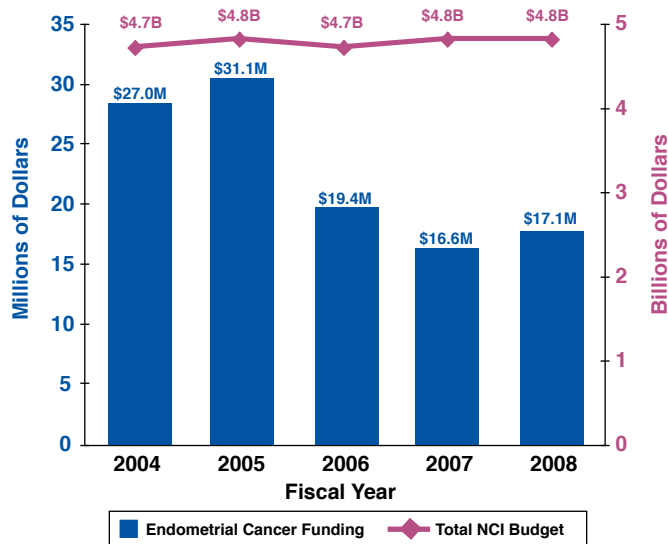
Trends in NCI Funding for Endometrial Cancer Research

The National Cancer Institute's (NCI) investment² in endometrial cancer research decreased from \$27.0 million in fiscal year 2004 to \$17.1 million in fiscal year 2008.

Source: NCI Office of Budget and Finance (<http://obf.cancer.gov/>).

²The estimated NCI investment is based on funding associated with a broad range of peer-reviewed scientific activities. For additional information on research planning and budgeting at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), see <http://www.nih.gov/about/>.

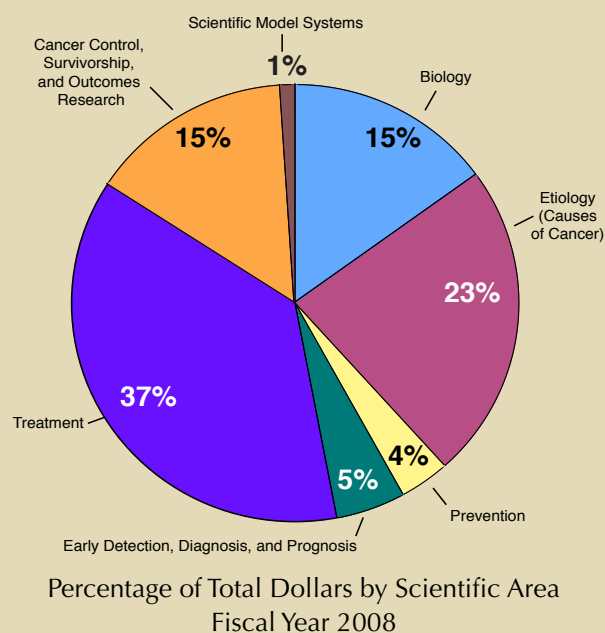
NCI Endometrial Cancer Research Investment



Examples of NCI Activities Relevant to Endometrial Cancer

- Two gynecologic cancer-specific **Specialized Programs of Research Excellence (SPOREs)** focus on treatment and prevention of gynecologic cancers, including the development of risk and predictive biomarkers for endometrial cancer. <http://spores.nci.nih.gov/current/gyn/index.htm>
- The **Gynecologic Cancer Intergroup (GCIG)**, an organization of international cooperative groups for clinical trials in gynecologic cancers, is identifying treatments for endometrial cancer. <http://gcig.igcs.org/index.html>
- **Clinical trials** are actively recruiting endometrial cancer patients to test new treatments and treatment combinations. <http://www.cancer.gov/search/ResultsClinicalTrials.aspx?protocolsearchid=5050269>
- Through the **Case Control Study in Poland** and the **Breast Cancer Detection Demonstration Project (BCDDP) Follow-Up Study**, NCI investigators are conducting epidemiologic research to identify factors that might influence endometrial cancer risk. These factors include family history of breast cancer, use of exogenous hormones, physical activity, body-mass index, smoking, and alcohol use. <http://dceg.cancer.gov/hreb/research/breast>
- The **Gynecologic Oncology Group (GOG)** is a cooperative research group that conducts clinical trials focused on women with pelvic malignancies, including endometrial cancer. <http://www.gog.org/>
- The **Breast and Gynecologic Malignancies Faculty** facilitates interactions among basic, epidemiological, and clinical researchers to promote the prevention,

NCI Endometrial Cancer Research Portfolio



Data sources: NCI's Division of Extramural Activities and the NCI Funded Research Portfolio. Only projects with assigned scientific area codes are included. A description of relevant research projects can be found on the NCI Funded Research Portfolio website at <http://fundedresearch.cancer.gov>

diagnosis, and cure of breast and gynecologic cancers. <http://ccr.cancer.gov/faculties/faculty.asp?facid=129>

- The **What You Need to Know About™ Cancer of the Uterus** booklet contains information about the possible causes, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment of cancer of the uterus. Information specialists can also answer questions about cancer at 1-800-4-CANCER. <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/wyntk/uterus/>
- The **Endometrial Cancer Home Page** directs visitors to up-to-date information on endometrial cancer treatment, prevention, genetics, causes, screening, testing, and other topics. <http://www.cancer.gov/endometrial>

Selected Advances in Endometrial Cancer Research

- A large clinical study found that **addition of external-beam radiation therapy and lymph node removal to surgery** does not improve survival in early uterine cancer. http://www.cancer.gov/ncicancerbulletin/NCI_Cancer_Bulletin_121608/page3
- Researchers found that the enzyme **protein kinase C alpha controls growth and invasion** of endometrial cancer cells. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19235902>
- The protein **c-Jun N-terminal kinase regulates endometrial cancer cell death** and sensitivity to chemotherapeutic agents. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19424800>
- A study with the NIH-AARP Diet and Health Study cohort determined that **endometrial cancer risk increases with sedentary behavior** and decreases with vigorous physical activity. <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/19123463>